

[23 April, 2001]

RAJYA SABHA

(c) whether Government have laid down any norms for permitting the entry of the foreign companies;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the steps taken to protect the interest of domestic companies and provide them level playing field?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) and (b) Government has so far-not received any application for issue of licence for Direct-to* Home Services.

(c) to (c) Government has issued details guidelines on 15.03.2001, for operation of DTH services in the country, which *inter-alia* provide that only Indian companies with a maximum foreign equity, including FDI/NRI/OCB/FII, of 49% would be eligible to obtain the licence. The guidelines are available on this Ministry's website i.e. mib.nic.in.

Functioning of Bhubaneswar Doordarshan

4025. SHRI RAMACHANDRA KHUNTIA: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the part-time Journalists and Artists of Doordarshan, Bhubaneswar have not received their payment for the last one year;

(b) whether it is also a fact that Bhubaneswar Doordarshan is discouraging the popular serials and newscasts like Orissa Review;

(c) whether any representation has been received by the Ministry about the blatant corruption in Bhubaneswar Doordarshan; and

(d) whether Government would like to inquire about the allegation and take appropriate action?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) to (d) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.